AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for searching a plurality of machine-readable information

2   sources, said method comprising the steps of:

mapping a search string to a plurality of search terms, wherein each said search term relates

4   to at least one of said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u> information sources;

indicating at least one <u>of said plurality of machine-readable</u> information source<u>s</u> that each

6   said search term relates to; and

searching at least one of said indicated <u>machine-readable</u> information source<u>s</u> using selected

8   ones of said search terms.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising the further steps of receiving said initial search

2   term from a user and providing a result of said search to said user.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of indicating comprises one

2   or more of the steps in the group of steps consisting of:

indicating to said user which of said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u> information sources each

4   of said search terms relates to; and

indicating to said user at least one vocabulary each said search term is included in, wherein

6   each vocabulary relates to ~~at least~~ one of said information sources.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, comprising the further step of enabling said

2 user to select and de-select ones of said <u>plurality of machine-readable</u> information sources whereon

said searching step is performed.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, comprising the further step of enabling said

2 user to replace ones of said plurality of search terms with <u>user-selected</u> replacement search terms.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, comprising the further step of enabling said user to add

2 further search terms to said plurality of search terms.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of search terms

2 is selected from a vocabulary of terms used in a related one of said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u>

information sources.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of search terms are selected from

2 a meta-vocabulary comprising a list of terms included in a plurality of vocabularies.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u>

2 information sources comprise medical databases.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said mapping step is performed once only for

2   searching a particular search string.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said search string comprises a plurality of terms

2   and said step of mapping comprises the step of mapping each of said plurality of terms to a plurality

of synonyms.

12.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for searching a plurality of machine-readable information

2   sources, said apparatus comprising:

a communications interface for transmitting and receiving data;

4   a memory unit for storing data and instructions to be performed by a processing unit; and

a processing unit coupled to said communications unit and said memory unit, said processing

6   unit programmed to:

map a search string to a plurality of search terms, wherein each said search term relates to

8   at least one of said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u> information sources;

output an indication of at least one of said <u>plurality of machine-readable</u> information sources

10   that each said search term relates to; and

search at least one of said indicated <u>machine-readable</u> information sources using selected

12   ones of said search terms.

13.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said processing unit is further programmed

2   to receive said search string from a user and to output a result of said search to said user.

14.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said processing unit is programmed

2   to perform one or more instructions from the group of instructions consisting of:

indicate which of said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u> information sources each of said search

4   terms relates to; and

indicate at least one vocabulary each said search term is included in, wherein each vocabulary

2   relates to ~~at least~~ one of said <u>machine-readable</u> information sources.

15.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said processing unit is further

2   programmed to enable selection and de-selection of ones of said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u>

information sources whereon said searching is performed.

16.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said processing unit is further

2   programmed to enable <u>user</u> replacement of ones of said search terms with replacement search terms.

17.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said processing unit is further programmed

2   to enable further search terms to be added to said plurality of search terms.

18.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said processing unit is programmed

2   to select each of said search terms from a vocabulary of terms used in a related one of said plurality

of <u>machine-readable</u> information sources.

19.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said processing unit is programmed to select

2   said search terms from a meta-vocabulary comprising a list of terms included in a plurality of

vocabularies.

20.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u>

2   information sources comprise medical databases.

21.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said initial search term is mapped once only

2   for searching a particular search string.

22.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said search string comprises a plurality of

2   terms and said processing unit is further programmed to map each of said plurality of terms to a

plurality of synonyms.

23.   (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium

2   having a computer program recorded therein for searching a plurality of <u>machine-readable</u>

information sources, said computer program product comprising:

4   computer program code for mapping a search string to a plurality of search terms, wherein

each said search term relates to at least one of said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u> information

6   sources;

computer program code for outputting an indication of at least one of said <u>plurality of</u>

8   <u>machine-readable</u> information sources that each said search term relates to; and

computer program code for searching at least one of said indicated <u>machine-readable</u>

10   information sources using selected ones of said search terms.

24.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising computer program

2   code for enabling a user to submit said initial search term.

25.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein said computer

2   program code for outputting comprises one or more computer program code selected from the group

of computer program code consisting of:

4   computer program code for indicating which of said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u>

information sources each of said search terms relates to; and

6   computer program code for indicating at least one vocabulary each said search term is

included in, wherein each vocabulary relates to ~~at least~~ one of said <u>machine-readable</u> information

8   sources.

26.   (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising

2   computer program code for enabling selection and de-selection of ones of said plurality of <u>machine-</u>

<u>readable</u> information sources whereon said searching is performed.

27.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising computer program

2   code for enabling replacement of ones of said search terms with replacement search terms.

28.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising computer program

2   code for enabling addition of further search terms to said plurality of search terms.

29.   (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising

2   computer program code for selecting each of said plurality of search terms from a vocabulary of

terms used in a related one of said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u> information sources.

30.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising computer program

2   code for selecting said plurality of search terms from a meta-vocabulary comprising a list of terms

included in a plurality of vocabularies.

31.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein said plurality of

2   <u>machine-readable</u> information sources comprise medical databases.

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein said initial search term is

2 mapped once only for searching a particular search string.

33. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein said search string comprises

2 a plurality of terms and said computer program code for mapping comprises computer program code

for mapping each of said plurality of terms to a plurality of synonyms.

34.   (Currently amended) A method for searching a plurality of machine-readable information

2   sources, said method comprising the steps of:

mapping a search string to a plurality of search terms, wherein each said search term relates

4   to at least one of said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u> information sources; and

searching at least one of said <u>machine-readable</u> information sources using selected ones of

6   said search terms.

35.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for searching a plurality of machine-readable information

2   sources, said apparatus comprising:

        a communications interface for transmitting and receiving data;

4   a memory unit for storing data and instructions to be performed by a processing unit; and

        a processing unit coupled to said communications unit and said memory unit, said processing

6   unit programmed to:

        map a search string to a plurality of search terms, wherein each said search term relates to

8   at least one of said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u> information sources; and

        search at least one of said <u>machine-readable</u> information sources using selected ones of said

10   search terms.

36.   (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium

2   having a computer program recorded therein for searching a plurality of <u>machine-readable</u>

information sources, said computer program product comprising:

4   computer program code for mapping a search string to a plurality of search terms, wherein

each said search term relates to at least one of said plurality of <u>machine-readable</u> information

6   sources; and

          computer program code for searching at least one of said <u>machine-readable</u> information

8   sources using selected ones of said search terms.